

Aug 17- CGC SENECA pulled into Newport, Rhode Island to celebrate the 20th anniversary of her formal commissioning in 1987. SENECA's keel was laid at Newport's former Derektor Shipyard in 1982 and is the 6th of thirteen 270' Famous class Coast Guard cutters. SENECA's original shipbuilders, some traveling from as far as the Derektor Shipyards in Florida, were welcomed on board by Commander William Kelly, Commanding Officer of SENECA.



SENECA and her namesake cutter are both rich with maritime history. The original Revenue Cutter SENECA was the first cutter to engage in official ice patrol duties after the RMS Titanic sank in 1912. Shortly thereafter, SENECA was called on to protect convoys from submarine attacks between Gibraltar and Great Britain in WWII.

After the shipbuilders arrived, FSC Daryl Jochimsen presented an elaborately decorated cake as members of the crew stood by to answer questions and inquire about SENECA's early years. Shipbuilder Artie Rego recalled etching his name onto a bulkhead and a day spent chasing bees out of ventilation ducts with CO2 extinguishers. Insulator Wayne Delisle explained the man power required to ballast the ship before pumps were installed, "We would have at least 30 guys running across the flight deck to check water ballasts, with someone sitting on the hangar with a bullhorn giving commands!"

Both the Derektor Shipyard guests and the crew of SENECA spent the day reminiscing and sharing stories of SENECA's past and present. The shipbuilders also presented Commander Kelly with original photos of SENECA throughout the stages of construction. Today, SENECA continues to carry out Law Enforcement, Search and Rescue, Alien Migration Interdiction, and Homeland Security missions. SENECA is home ported in Boston, Massachusetts and is currently preparing to undergo a 6-month maintenance period in Baltimore, Maryland.